

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



ALASKA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

US Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 799
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As of May 1, 2006

All potato stocks (bin-run) in **Alaska** on May 1, 2006 totaled 61,000 cwt. This was 37 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 70,000 cwt, or 40 percent, on hand a year ago. The five-year average stocks on hand May 1 is 58,700 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since the start of the harvest to May 1 totaled 105,000 cwt. Last year, disappearance to May 1 was 107,000 cwt. The five year average is 113,000 cwt. Disappearance since April 1 was 19,000 cwt compared with 23,000 cwt a year ago and the five year average of 17,600 cwt.

The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Data are only being published at the state level this year due to confidentiality requirements.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 73.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2006, down 17 percent from last year and 14 percent below May 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 20 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year.

Disappearance of 300 million cwt of potatoes is down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 23.2 million cwt so far this season, is down 21 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 150 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

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POTATO STOCKS - MAY 1, 2006

	STOCKS					PRODUCTION	May 1 Stocks as Percent of Production
	MAY 1	APR 1	MAR 1	FEB 1	JAN 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----						-- Percent --
2006	61.0	80.0	93.0	106.0	118.0	166.0	37%
2005	70.0	93.0	106.0	114.0	126.0	177.0	40%
2004	32.0	52.0	62.0	71.0	90.0	168.0	19%

The Potato Stocks release is now available in pdf format via email. You can subscribe by going to [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Alaska/Subscribe to AK Reports/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Alaska/Subscribe_to_AK_Reports/index.asp) and selecting the reports to subscribe to as "Alaska Miscellaneous". This will sign you up to receive both the Potato Stocks and Monthly Farm Reporter releases. Or you can call the office at (907)745-4272 and we'll sign you up.

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